

September 19, 1999

Lester Snow
Executive Director
Cal/Fed Bay/Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street
Suite 1155
Sacramento, Ca 95814

Dear Mr. Snow:

I am contacting you regarding the current public hearing process for the Cal/Fed proposal. I am urging Cal/Fed to support a program of a commitment to the restoration and enhancement of the Bay/ Delta region for the people and wildlife of the State of California.

The California Farm Bureau has rode roughshod over California's natural environment for decades. It is time for clear thinking people to rise above the worn out rhetoric and do what is truly needed. That need is to stop the wasteful demand, by the agri-business community, for MORE water.

The agricultural community sucks up approximately 85% of California's water. As a former resident of the West Side of the San Joaquin Valley, I can attest to the incredible waste of cheap water by the so-called, huge, "family" farms. These "farms" have subverted the real intent of the Central Valley Project, which was to help create small, family farms. The new owners would, in turn, help to grow and stimulate the small Valley communities. Greedy and unscrupulous farmers, lawyers, and their political allies have seriously eroded that goal.

If one wants to see the results of the corporate farming on the communities of the West Side just take a drive through the hamlet of Huron located approximately 50 miles west of Fresno. This community, and dozens of others in California, exists only to supply migrant workers a place to stay during

the growing season. The social goals of the C.V.P. have been subverted.

Now, the California Farm Bureau and their allies want more. They want you to forget their past methods and history. These boisterous business people appear to be mainly concerned with the further enhancement of their pocketbooks at the expense of California's natural environment.

Cal/Fed has a job to do and that job is to prevent further destruction to the Bay/Delta environment. You must be fair, but firm. Do not succumb to political pressure. California's agri-business has to grow up and finally take some responsibility of its own. A decent water conservation program is a good start.

Please support a program that finally protects the water rights for the "other" people of California. Support a program that improves the water quality for the rapidly disappearing wildlife. To do less is to abrogate your duties.

Thank you for your consideration regarding this matter.

Sincerely, .

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Fraites", written in a cursive style.

Rick Fraites
50 Forrest Road
Novato, Ca 94947